

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-12, and 14-19 stand rejected. By this paper, Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 3. Applicant has also added Claims 20-22. The amendments are supported at least by page 4, lines 19-22, page 7, lines 24-29, page 11, lines 30-37, and page 16, lines 25-29 of the originally filed specification. No new matter has been added via amendment. Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-12, and 14-22 remain pending in the application and are presented for examination in view of the amendments set forth above and the remarks set forth below.

Discussion of the Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to Claim 3 because of certain informalities. Applicant has amended the claim to overcome the objection.

Discussion of the Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. In particular, the Examiner stated "the polygonal hole of the guide element (Claim 3) must be shown."

Applicant submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that at least one definition of a polygon is "a closed plane figure having three or more sides" (*American Heritage Science Dictionary*, copyright 2002, published by Houghlin Mifflin). Applicant further submits that, as stated in the MPEP at § 2111, "[d]uring patent examination, the pending claims must be 'given their broadest reasonable interpretation.'" In view of this, Applicant submits that a polygonal hole of the guide element is shown in the drawings, at least at Figure 4 reference number 14. The hole is illustrated in Figure 4 as having "three straight sides 141, 142, 143, and one curved side 144. Corner transitions 145, 146, which are in each case provided with radii, are formed between the two long straight sides 141, 142 and short straight side 143" (see ¶ [0042]). Applicant therefore respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

Discussion of Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-12, and 14-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Taylor (U.S. Patent No. 2,760,574). Applicant respectfully submits that, as

stated in the MPEP at § 2131, “[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference” *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987) and that “[t]he elements must be arranged as required by the claim” *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990). Applicant further submits that each and every element of Claim 1 is not found in Taylor.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, “at least one fastening piece for fastening the stripping device to the cutting tool.” Applicant respectfully submits that Taylor does not disclose such a fastening piece. The Examiner has stated that “Taylor discloses ... a stripping device comprising a fastening piece (35).” *See* Office Action, p. 4.

Taylor discloses that the “upper end of the punch is formed with a head 35.” *See* col. 3, ll. 25-26. Taylor further disclose that “element 26 and the head 35 of the punch provide opposed seats for a stripping spring 36” and “a lifting spring 41 [] is located between seats formed on the underside of the head 35” (emphasis added) *See* col. 3, ll. 28-29 and 51-53.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed “fastening piece” fastens the stripping device as recited in Claim 1 comprising “a spring-elastic element,” “a stripping element,” and “at least one guide element,” to the cutting tool. Applicant respectfully submits that Taylor discloses that the head 35 simply rests on the stripping spring 36 and lifting spring 41 and fails to fasten any two pieces.

Since Taylor fails to disclose “a fastening piece for fastening the stripping device to the cutting tool” as recited in Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 recites patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and allowance of the pending claims.

Dependent Claims

Claims 2-21 depend from base Claim 1 and further define additional technical features of the present invention. In view of the patentability of their base claims, and in further view of their additional technical features, Applicant respectfully submits that the dependent claims are patentable over the prior art of record. Further, Applicant does not necessarily agree with the characterizations of the prior art made by the Examiner in rejecting the dependent claims.

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No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, Applicant is not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that Applicant has made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

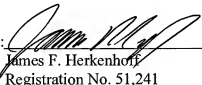
Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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